

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
CHARTER
CONSERVATION ADVISORY GROUP
Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project, Washington**

1. Official Designation: Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group

2. Scope and Objectives: This charter renews the Yakima River Basin Conservation Advisory Group (CAG) that the Act of October 31, 1994 (Public Law 103-434), directed the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) to create. This Conservation Advisory Group provides recommendations to the Secretary and the State of Washington (State) on the structure and implementation of the Yakima River Basin Water Conservation Program.

The basin conservation program is structured to provide economic incentives with cooperative Federal, State, and local funding to stimulate the identification and implementation of structural and nonstructural cost-effective water conservation measures in the Yakima River basin. Improvements in the efficiency of water delivery and use will result in improved streamflows for fish and wildlife and improve the reliability of water supplies for irrigation.

3. Description of Duties: The duties or functions of the CAG are to:

a. Provide recommendations to the Secretary and the State on the structure and implementation of the basin conservation program.

b. Provide annual review of the implementation of the Basin Conservation Program, including the applicable water conservation guidelines of the Secretary used by participating entities in preparing their individual water conservation plan.

c. Provide recommendations on rules, regulations, and administration to facilitate the voluntary sale and lease of water.

d. Provide recommendations to the Secretary and the State on the establishment of a program for measuring and reporting water diversions in the Yakima River basin.

4. Duration: The CAG will remain in existence until its mission is completed or it is no longer deemed necessary. The charter will be renewed every 2 years as specified in item 10 below.

5. Agency or Official to Whom the Group Reports: The CAG reports to the Secretary through the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation (Commissioner). The Commissioner or the Commissioner's designee will serve as the Designated Federal Official (DFO).

6. Bureau Responsible for Providing Necessary Support: The support services for the activities of the CAG will be provided by the Bureau of Reclamation.

7. Estimated Annual Operating Costs: We estimate the annual operating costs for the CAG to be \$13,000. Federal staff support is estimated at 10 percent of 1 FTE.

8. Allowances for Committee Members (compensation, travel, per diem, etc.): CAG members, the Facilitator (if outside the agency), and working group members, while engaged in the performance of approved business away from home or their regular places of business, will be reimbursed for travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, in accordance with 5 U.S.C. Section 5703. The Facilitator, if not an agency employee, may be paid for services rendered.

9. Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings: The CAG will meet twice a year. The DFO, may call additional meetings as deemed appropriate. At least four members or alternate must be present at any meeting of the CAG. The CAG is nonvoting, seeking consensus whenever possible. If disagreement occurs, any member may submit independent comments to the Secretary.

10. Termination Date: The CAG is subject to the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. Appendix 2, and will take no action unless the charter filing requirements of Section 9 of FACA have been complied with. The committee charter is subject to biennial review and will terminate 2 years from the date the charter is filed, unless, prior to that time, the charter is renewed in accordance with Section 14 of the FACA.

11. Committee Membership: Members of the CAG will be comprised of:

- a. One representative of the Yakima River basin nonproratable irrigators.
- b. One representative of the Yakima River basin proratable irrigators.
- c. One representative of the Yakama Nation or an appointed alternate.
- d. One representative of the environmental community.
- e. One representative of the Washington State University Agricultural Extension Service.
- f. One representative of the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife with expertise in fishery resources.

Members of the CAG will be appointed to 3-year terms. Vacancies occurring by reason of resignation, death, or failure to regularly attend meetings will be filled by the Secretary for the balance of the vacating member's term using the same method by which the original appointment was made.

The DFO of the CAG will select an individual to serve as the Facilitator for CAG meetings. The Facilitator will arrange for the meetings, serve as moderator at the meetings, and provide logistical support. The Facilitator will not be a voting member of the CAG.

12. Ethics Responsibilities of Members: No Council or subcommittee member will participate in any specific party matter including a lease, license, permit, contract, claim, agreement, or related litigation with the Department in which the member has a direct financial interest.

13. Designated Federal Officer (DFO): The DFO will be the Commissioner of the Bureau of Reclamation, or his or her designee. The DFO is authorized, whenever he or she determines it to be in the public interest, to adjourn any committee meeting. No meeting of the committee will be conducted in the absence of the DFO. The current DFO is Ms. Dawn Wiedmeier, Deputy Area Manager, Upper Columbia Area Office, 1917 Marsh Road, Yakima, WA 98901-2058.

14. Working Groups: The CAG may have workgroups or subgroups that the agency deems necessary for the purpose of compiling information or conducting research. However, such workgroups may not conduct business without the direction of the Council and must report in full to the Council.

15. Authority: The original authority for the establishment of the CAG was provided by the Act of October 31, 1994 (Public Law 103-434). Since 1999 the CAG has been established under general agency authority by the Secretary of the Interior. The establishment of this committee is in the public interest in connection with the duties and responsibilities delegated to the Bureau of Reclamation by the Secretary.



Secretary of the Interior

MAR 26 2008

Date Signed

APR 4 2008

Date Charter filed